

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- History of the Marine Corps Hymn
- Chaplain's Chat
- Promotions, Awards, & Retirements
- Barracks Babies
- T.A.P.S at the Barracks
- SMMC Memo

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Marine Barracks Washington Commanding Officer

Colonel Paul D. Montanus, USMC

Dear families and friends of the Barracks,

It is hard to believe that as I write this we are past the half-way point of a spectacular parade season. I hope everyone had an enjoyable 4th of July, and was able to rest and spend time with family. Since our last newsletter, we have conducted 12 Evening Parades and 6 Sunset parades, and I could not be more proud of the team effort of everyone at the Barracks who have put in so many long hours to ensure that each event has been executed flawlessly. This promises to be a parade season to remember.

But in addition to the parades, the business of the Barracks continues to be conducted to the high standard for which it is known. The Marine Corps Institute continues to set the standard for distance education in the Corps, the Marching Companies are supporting events throughout the National Capital Region as well as conducting infantry training, the Band and Drum and Bugle Corps are

providing world-class musical support to the President and Commandant, Guard Company is providing security for our Marines, residents while acting as ambassadors of the Corps to the community, and Headquarters Company is the glue that keeps everything running.

I was glad to once again get to meet and see many of you again at the Summer Bash, and I know many of you have taken advantage of the Parade Night Potlucks and Childcare that Lynnette Thompson has arranged. For those of you who aren't aware of this program, Lynnette has arranged for childcare at the Barracks on several Friday nights to enable you to drop your children off in a safe environment inside the Barracks, and go out and enjoy watching a parade from VIP seating. Please take advantage of the remaining dates she has arranged.

On a personal note, Sonja,



Eamonn and I welcomed the newest addition to our family on Jun 14, a little boy who we named Eli. He is doing great (although wearing us out). His big brother

(our 2 ½ year old) has been wonderful adjusting to this new member our family who only seems to cry, eat, and sleep. We want to thank everyone for the outpouring of well-wishes and support. Having a newborn at the Barracks, in the midst of parade season, has reminded Sonja and I, once again, of the amazing amount of support that families provide to their Marines, sailors, and civilians each and every day, especially in light of the unusual hours, late nights, and weekend events we support. You, the families, are the backbone of our organization – we could not enjoy the successes we achieve without your sacrifice and support. Our successes is yours.

I look forward to seeing you all soon,

Semper Fidelis

Alpha Company

Greetings to all Marines, Family, and Friends of Alpha Company,

The 2011 Parade Season is upon us and Company A is in full stride. The hard work has paid off; your Marines have been performing brilliantly on the Parade Deck.

Recently the Marines from the Silent Drill Platoon and Parade 4 Color Guard returned from a performance

in Belleau Wood, France with the Battle Color Detachment. While back at MBW, A1 participated in a Joint Ceremony on the South Lawn of the White House. This past weekend, Color Guard and Marines from A2 marched on the streets of Washington, DC 4th of July Parade.



Your Marines are truly a hard working and dedicated group of young men; a sterling example

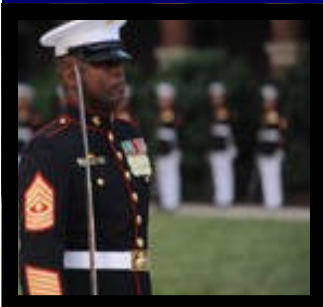
of the finest the Marine Corps has to offer. I want to thank the family members and friends of Company A for all of your support; our success is not possible without you.

Semper Fidelis

Capt Eric S. Dwyer

A Company Commander

"We take great pride in our mission serving as the true service company for the "Oldest Post of the Corps", and I personally thank you for your support in facilitating our efforts."



Headquarters and Service Company

Greetings Headquarters and Service Family,

Having recently assumed command of Headquarters and Service Company, I can tell you that I am continually inspired by the attitude and professionalism exhibited by our joint Marine, sailor and civilian team. I am witness daily to the individual effort and dedication that combine to support not only the administrative mission of the Barracks, but also to ensure our thousands of summer parade season

guests receive the total Barracks experience upon entering through our gates.

As we progress through the remainder of the 2011 Marine Barracks Washington parade season, I would respectfully urge families to participate in and become a part of the total Barracks experience. Many opportunities to assist within the Barracks and local community can be found through the Family Readiness Office (FRO) and/or the Chaplain's office. Our Marines, Sailors and civilians take great pride in knowing they each have

served an integral role in creating that unique Marine Barracks Washington experience for the thousands of guests visiting throughout this summer's parade season, and we would like to extend that satisfaction to our families as well.

We take great pride in our mission serving as the true service company for the Oldest Post of the Corps, and I personally thank you for your support in facilitating our efforts.

Semper Fidelis,

Maj Scott Clippinger

H&S Company Commander

Marine Corps Institute

The Marine Corps Institute has been very busy the last three months with the start of the parade season. The ramp-up began with several MCI personnel training to march on the Parade Staff. We are proud of all the hard work they put forth in preparation to make each parade a special experience for all. Along with marching, MCI has been very hard at work this parade season in the crucial role as ceremonial hosts. Their efforts during each parade leave a lasting impact on our guests and provide

some of them with the first one-on-one interaction they have ever had with a Marine. We are very proud of their efforts because they truly make the Barracks a mystical experience for our guests.

Amidst all the ceremonial and educational commitments the summer requires, the company also executed a one day machinegun range in late May where the Marines were trained on the M240B machinegun and the M249 Squad Automatic Weapon. More field



training will continue this summer to ensure our MCI marines stay fresh in their basic combat skills. The Ma-

rines are doing a great job and we thank you for your support! We hope you had a safe and enjoyable Independence Day celebration!

Semper Fidelis,
LtCol Jonathan Langlois
MCI Company Commander

The "President's Own" USMC Band

Friends and families of Marine Barracks, Washington,

Along with the Wednesday and Thursday evening concerts performed by the U.S. Marine Band this summer, there are several other opportunities to enjoy free concerts while the kids are out of school. The Marine Orchestra will perform monthly concerts at



the Schlesinger Auditorium on the campus of Northern Virginia Community College in Alexandria, VA. The concerts are, of course, free and open to the public and no tickets are required. The orchestra's summer concerts will take place on 16 July and 20 August (both are Saturdays). All summer orchestra concerts begin at 1930.

In addition to the orchestra concerts, the USMB's country ensemble, "Free Country" will make

their annual appearance at the Harper's Ferry National Historic Park in Harper's Ferry, WV on Saturday, 3 Sep. That concert starts at 1800.

All Marine Band concerts are family-friendly.

For all concert information, to include driving directions and parking information, please visit

www.marineband.usmc.mil.

Semper Fidelis,
Col Michael Colburn
Director, U.S. Marine Band

Drum and Bugle Corps



The Marine Corps Battle Color Detachment is looking forward to returning to Kingston, Ontario, Canada for a joint ceremony with the Fort Henry Guard on August 20-21, 2011.

The friendship between "The Commandant's Own," The United States Marine Drum & Bugle Corps, United States Marine Silent Drill Platoon, and Color Guard of the Marine Corps was first estab-

lished in August 1954 in recognition of the Ogdensburg Agreement (an establishment of defense for the northern half of the western hemisphere). Marines witnessed the shaking of hands across the world's largest undefended border with one of Canada's oldest forts.

General Lemuel C. Shepherd, twentieth Commandant of the Marine Corps witnessed first hand the military precision of Ft Henry Guard's drill and music,

whereby selecting the Battle Color Detachment to participate in this inaugural ceremony. General Shepherd was also instrumental with creating recurring visits to this highly polished ceremonial unit and credited their nighttime ceremony as the impetus for the Evening Parades here at Marine Barracks Washington.

Semper Fidelis,

Maj Brian Dix

Commanding Officer
Drum & Bugle Corps

HOME... Sweet Home!

The 35th Commandant and First Lady of the Marine Corps, General and Mrs. James Amos, officially moved home aboard the Barracks after a six month period of renovations to Quarters 6, the Commandant's home. During the renovations, many hidden, yet original, details about the home were discovered and became a visual part of the home again. For visits and tour information, contact the Barracks Public Affairs Office at 202-433 4173.



Bravo Company

Bravo Company is in full stride as the 2011 Marine Barracks Washington Parade Season is officially underway! We had a very successful outing during our first Sunset Parade held on 7 June at the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Va. These parades will continue every Tuesday, along with our Friday Evening Parades, throughout the remainder of the summer. We hope to see you out there! As a company of infan-

try Marines, we have not lost focus of our need to continue to develop the skills that will enable us to smoothly transition into the operating forces. Bravo Company platoons have created and maintained aggressive training schedules that encompass classroom instruction and practical application, annual grenade range and gas chamber qualifications, as well as live fire



plishment.

training events aboard Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va. Bravo Company continues to work hard and we remain committed to our future success and mission accom-

Semper Fidelis,

Capt John McGlaughlin

Bravo Company Commander

Guard Company

Summer brings rising temperatures and the challenge of staying fit for duty to maintain the Barracks' safety and security. The Marines of Guard Company never cease to amaze me with their ability to stand out in the heat of the day, manning posts, maintaining a positive attitude, and doing their duty twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. With the successful completion of all Physical Fitness Tests for the year it is obvious the Marine Corps is a young man's game. I ran with one of our platoons and



can tell you from first-hand experience, these Marines are strong, fast, and have taken their training very serious. Their physical prowess coupled with passion and dedication to the Marine Corps ensures our nations success, long after I retire.

During parade season Guard Company Marines wear their dress uniforms more often. Keeping dress uniforms crisp, clean, and presentable is required of all 8th and 1st Marines, but Guard

Marines must also maintain the functionality needed to wear weapons and associated equip-

ment. This is no easy task and every Friday night I am honored to inform the guests who visit, "The Marines you see carrying the pistols are Guard Company Marines. They are here to ensure your safety while you visit Marine Barracks Washington". This always garners a positive response about how professional they look.

I am proud of the hard work Guard Company Marines perform and will continue to do whatever I can, ensuring they have everything they need to do their job successfully. Again, it is my honor to be their Company Commander.

Semper Fidelis,

Capt Brent A. Hampton

Guard Company Commander

T.A.P.S attends the Evening Parade

On May 27th, the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) 2011 Good Grief Camp participants, attended the Evening Parade at the Marine Barracks Washington (MBW). With grey skies in the forecast and severe thunderstorm warnings in effect, these campers did not leave the Barracks unhappy when they heard the parade was "cancelled."

Instead of boarding the busses and heading back to the hotel, these campers were invited to the foyer area of Sousa Hall where they were given "special treatment" by the Silent Drill Platoon, Barracks spouses and our very own, "Chesty XIII."

Marine Barracks Washington Commanding Officer, Col Paul Montanus, along with several other Marine escorts, spouses and Drum and Bugle crowd educators entertained the campers with a warm welcome, personal interaction

and healing conversation.

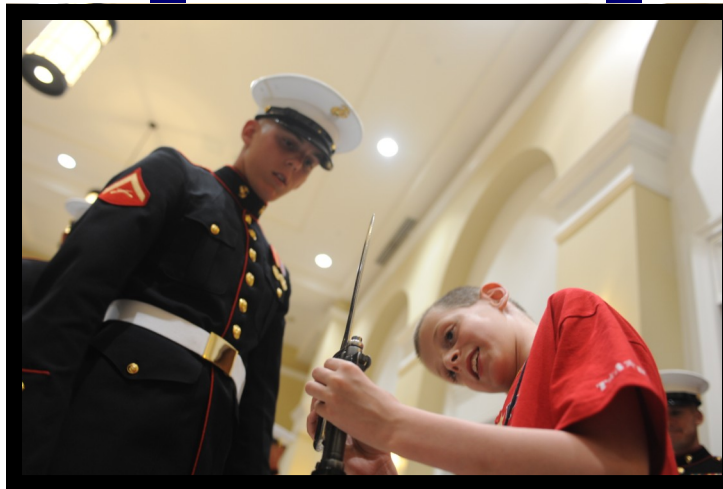
The TAPS organization's mission is to "provide ongoing help, hope, and healing to all who are grieving the death of a loved one in the military regardless of relationship, geography, or circumstance of death." The Good Grief Camp organized by TAPS, is an annual event which takes place in late Spring. Active duty mentors volunteer to participate with TAPS to provide a

MBW, family members received a "care package" of



their own built by MBW spouses. Each care package was "packed with care" giving a small token of appreciation and a message to the families letting them know...they will ALWAYS be a part of the Marine Corps family.

Follow up: MBW recently found out that several Good Grief Camp participants live within the National Capital Region. TAPS has informed their camp participants of alternate parade dates and how to obtain the tickets available.



continuous relationship with the family members of the deceased service member.

Upon departure from

History of the United States Marine Corps Hymn

The U.S. Marine Corps is the United States' military band of brothers dedicated to warfighting. The proud Brotherhood of Marines is guided by principles, values, virtues, love of country, and its Warrior Culture. This brotherhood of American Patriots has no song. Instead, Marine Warriors have a hymn.

When The Marines' Hymn is played, United States Marines stand at attention. They silently show their pride in their fellow Marines, their Corps, their Country, their heritage, and their hymn.

The Marines' Hymn is a tribute to Warriors. Marine Warriors stormed fortress Derna, raised the American flag, and gave us "the shores of Tripoli." Marines fought their way into the castle at Chapultepec and gave us the "halls of Montezuma." Marines exist for the purpose of warfighting. Fighting is their role in life. They "fight for right and freedom" and "to keep our honor clean." They fight "in the air, on land, and sea." The Marine Corps is Valhalla for Warriors.

U.S. Marines need no song. They have a hymn. Ironically, no one knows who wrote the hymn, which was in widespread use by the mid-1800s. Col. A.S. McLemore, USMC, spent several years trying to identify the origin of the tune. In 1878 he told the leader of the Marine Band that the tune had been adopted from the comic opera Genevieve de Brabant by Jacques Offenbach. Yet, others believe the tune originated from a Spanish folk song. Whatever! Regardless of its origin, The Marines' Hymn has remained a revered icon of the United States Marine Corps for almost 200 years.

In 1929 the Marines' Hymn became the official hymn of the Corps. Thirteen years later in November 1942 the Commandant approved a change in the words of the first verse, fourth line. Because of the increasing use of aircraft in the Corps, the words were changed to "In the air, on land, and sea." No other changes have been made since that time. When you have attained absolute perfection, there is no need for further modification:



**From the Halls of Montezuma,
To the Shores of Tripoli;
We fight our country's battles
In the air, on land, and sea;
First to fight for right and freedom And to keep our honor
clean; We are proud to claim the title Of UNITED STATES MARINES.**

**Our flag's unfurled to every breeze, From dawn to setting sun;
We have fought in every clime and place Where we could take a
gun; In the snow of far off northern lands And in sunny tropic
scenes; You will find us always on the job -- The UNITED STATES
MARINES.**

**Here's health to you and to our Corps Which we are proud to
serve; In many a strife we've fought for life And never lost our
nerve; If the Army and the Navy Ever look on Heaven's scenes;
They will find the streets are guarded By UNITED STATES MARINES.**

Sir Winston Churchill, British Prime Minister, became an ardent admirer of the U.S. Marine Corps. In the company of guests of state, he often demonstrated his respect for U.S. Marines by reciting, from memory, all three verses of The Marines' Hymn.

AWARDS



GySgt Charles Peoples
Capt Christopher Johnson
1stLt Lorelei Gaus



Cpl Brandon Bouchey
Cpl Mario Douglas
Cpl Casey Taylor
Cpl David Valencia-Bonilla



LCpl Nolan Cavan



Cpl Christopher May
LCpl Ryan Ishman

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Cpl Timothy Loader
Cpl Shaun McNary
Cpl Michael Smith
Cpl Vincent Soueissi
Cpl Brandon Woodard
GySgt George Dobison
Cpl Loan Nguyen
Sgt Alfredo Heller
Cpl Dustin Dawson
Cpl Sean Taylor
Cpl Matthew Watrous
Cpl Ryan Armstrong
Cpl Christopher Lubatti
LCpl James Warner
Sgt Hidenori Tanimoto
LCpl Emily Tinsley
Cpl Justin Creasman
Sgt Alicia Roseman
LCpl Miguel Trevino



PFC Curtis Overholt
LCpl William Cleaver
PFC Jacob Kennedy
PFC Ricky Smith
LCpl Cruz Fondriest
PFC Jordan Hastings
PFC Earnest Sharpe
LCpl Terrance Thorpe
LCpl Jerry Woodall
PFC David Beaver
PFC Mitchell Byrd
PFC Francisco Colon
PFC Lewis Schmitt
PFC Lonell Mills
LCpl Shawn Brown
LCpl James Gigliello
LCpl David Korin
LCpl Alexander Lazary
PFC Justin Rea
PFC Jared Crane
LCpl William Helms
PFC Randall Love
LCpl Joshua Oliveira
LCpl Theodore Roberts
PFC Angel Roman
PFC Donquincy Spence
LCpl James Unkle
LCpl Bryan McCusker
PFC Jared Pudiwitr
LCpl Ryan Thornton
LCpl Cody Weir
PFC Jonathan Westbrook
PFC Raimondo Lescaud
PFC Christopher Bustamante
PFC Michael Wiggleton
PFC Wade Ross
PFC Daniel May
PFC Jack Donnell
PFC Bradley Best
PFC David Mata



MGySgt Cameron Gates
MGySgt Bryan Bourne
MSgt Leonard Spain
MSgt David Peacock
MSgt Brad Walker
MSgt John Mula
MSgt Frederick Vare
MSgt Larry Proctor
GySgt Russell Wilson
GySgt Gregory Ridlington
GySgt Michael Mergen
GySgt Christopher Tiedeman
GySgt Scott Gearhart
GySgt Jeremy Johnson
GySgt Francis Shieh
SSgt Scott Zabel
SSgt Charles Hughes
SSgt Sara Dellomo
SSgt Franklyn Johnson
SSgt Ellen Dooley
Sgt Christapher Rollison
Sgt Deshun Deloach
Cpl Corwin Jackson
Cpl Stephern Brewer
Cpl Judes Grandoit
Cpl Shawn Nicely
Cpl Matthew Parmenter
Cpl Michael Hintz
Cpl Andrew Jender
Cpl Kyle Lafferty
Cpl Eric Harshman
Cpl Nicholas Clements
LCpl Kyle Hardin

MERITORIOUS MAST

PFC Francisco Colon
LCpl Cruz Fondriest
LCpl Jarrett Davidson

LETTER OF APPRECIATION

Sgt Alfredo Heller
GySgt Atanacio Hernandez Jr.
Sgt Christopher Madden

PROMOTIONS



PFC Daniel May
PFC Timothy Neven
PFC Joseph Crawford
PFC Jack Donnell
PFC David Mata



LCpl Robert Currie
LCpl Sean Breheny
LCpl Eric Lopez
LCpl Devon Denmark
LCpl Matthew Moyer
LCpl Joey Guterrez-Alvarez
LCpl Sean Maloney
LCpl Lawrence Terry
LCpl Joshua Cogan
LCpl Thomas Scharinger
LCpl Shawn Bowie
LCpl Brandon Hickok
LCpl Tyler McManus
LCpl Nathan Previti
LCpl Wislliam Sprit II
LCpl Danny Thomas Jr
LCpl Malcolm Elzie
LCpl Joel Chin
LCpl Jon Smith



LCpl Joshua Groppuso
LCpl Jerry Berning
LCpl Giovanni Mejia
LCpl Matthew Panusky
LCpl William Cleaver Jr
LCpl James Gigliello
LCpl Alexander Lazary
LCpl Dane McDonald
LCpl Christopher Ouellette
LCpl Douglas Antos

LCpl William Helms
LCpl Joshua Oliveria
LCpl Theodore Roberts
LCpl Ryan Thornton
LCpl Terrance Thorpe
LCpl Cody Weir
LCpl Jerry Woodall
LCpl Melissa Simmons
LCpl Aaron Szabo
LCpl Charley Kilgore
LCpl Andrew Wingate
LCpl Charlton Busch Jr
LCpl David Korin
LCpl Kyle Ortiz
LCpl James Unkle
LCpl McKay Allred
LCpl Bryan McCusker
LCpl Sirin Broadus
LCpl John McKoin
LCpl Leopoldo Torres-Williams



Cpl Jason Pena
Cpl Joshua Holland
Cpl Brian Smith
Cpl John Williams
Cpl Zachary Plowman
Cpl Jacob Buraczyk
Cpl Joshua Clark
Cpl Nicholas Hernandez
Cpl Jason Rumaker
Cpl Jude Collins Jr
Cpl Jonathan Wilcox
Cpl Timothy Loader
Cpl Sean Taylor
Cpl Matthew Watrous
Cpl Matthew Watrous
Cpl Raul Rodriguez III
Cpl James Doyle
Cpl William Finney
Cpl Kevin Johnson
Cpl John Carreno
Cpl Tristian Fick

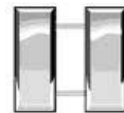
Cpl Jason Wood
Cpl Scott McBeth
Cpl Brice Hatcher
Cpl Karl Borgus
Cpl Joshua Carrott
Cpl Brett Young
Cpl Matthew Delmore
Cpl Alexander Cooke
Cpl Matthew Sullivan
Cpl John Holliday
Cpl Brandon Keene
Cpl Kenneth Koch
Cpl Miles Neville
Cpl Jonahtan Joyner
Cpl Nicholas Combs
Cpl Shawn Nicely
Cpl Roberto Perez
Cpl Mitchell Arnold-Anderson
Cpl Thomas Wortham
Cpl Michael Fleming



Sgt Julie Moses
Sgt Michael Harper
Sgt Bobby Yarbrough
Sgt Mark Coleman II
Sgt Alfredo Heller
Sgt Christopher Bryant
Sgt Samuel Currier
Sgt Justin Gerdes
Sgt Ryan Rigsby
Sgt Christopher Madden
Sgt Ebony McFarland



GySgt Donald Clark
GySgt Harry Ong



Capt Raul Chiriboga

Capt Nicholas Schrock



SSgt Jonathan Miller
SSgt Eric Giannolla
SSgt Casey Grella



Maj Thomas Shields

Marine Barracks Washington Sergeant Major

Sgt Major Eric Stockton, USMC



Greetings Marines, Sailors, Civilian Marines, Families and Friends of Marine Barracks Washington!

The last couple of months have been extremely busy for us all. I know that you all have felt the impact through many late evenings and significant hosting events. While there is much yet to accomplish, our warriors have done an exceptional job this year.

I may be biased, but I truly believe that we have the best and brightest that our Corps has to offer at the Barracks. This is due to the strong family foundation at home. Without your support, the mission of the barracks would greatly suffer. Tara and I simply want to say thank you!

Semper Fidelis

July 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 Evening	9
10	11	12 Sunset Parade	13	14	15 Evening Parade & Pot- luck w/ child- care	16 LINKS 9- 4pm@HH
17	18	19 Sunset Parade	20	21 LINKS 9- 4pm@HH	22 Baby Boot Camp @HH Evening Parade	23 7 Habits for Military Fami- lies 9-4 pm @HH
24	25	26 Sunset Parade	27	28	29 Evening Parade	30
31						

BARRACKS BABIES

Jaidyn Rose Brunner
Justin Julian Galyean



Michael Thomas Goodlett
Kaylee Rose Martinez
Eli Nieuwejaar Montanus
Roman Peralta

Anneka Kathryn Singer
Chase Josiah Young

RETIREMENTS

SSgt Gregory Markley
MSgt John Courtney
MSgt Larry Proctor
MSgt David Robinson



Chaplains Chat

Sizzling hot weekend of Fourth of July marks the half time in our parade season. I had a great weekend. It was an opportunity for my family to take a breath, regroup and get ourselves ready for another push through the remaining of parade season. We needed that time to break out of weekly parade routine in order to get back in the game. Some had that time at the Barracks, but for some others the Fourth of July weekend was another weekend away from the families to perform their duty. I am just amazed how men and women continue to press forward, and families left behind while their dads or moms are away. As I gave some thoughts to what's really important in the midst of busy summer at the Barracks, I came

across this biblical passage as a good reminder to all of us. Unknown author of Hebrews in the New Testament says that "Since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us" (NLT, Hebrews 12:1). Doing what's really important and what is right before God counts the most. Try to run a couple of miles with unnecessary stuff strapped to our bodies. Unnecessary stuff in our lives serves us only distraction and slow us down our daily progress in life. A couple of truths about our military life I learned over the years are: (1) we don't have too much time with our families, and (2) when we do have time, we easily squander our time away. Like running, we need

to be intentional about our time when we do have time with our families and make the most of it. Let us not complain the things that we can't change, fight over things that we can't remember in few days, or throw meaningless words that do not edify, but let us be intentional about what we do with our words and deeds with our families during this parade season. Let us continue to run with endurance the race God has set before us. The finish line is just around the curve.

Semper Fidelis,
LCdr Phillip Park
MBW Chaplain



SERGEANT MAJOR OF THE MARINE CORPS MEMORANDUM

9 June 2011



SMMC MEMO 02-11

Farewell: For the last 35 years, I have had the privilege and honor to serve as a United States Marine — one of many who have proudly worn the Eagle, Globe & Anchor while continuing the great legacy of the World's Finest Fighting Force. Today my time as an active-duty Marine comes to an end, and my wife, Liz, and I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you from the bottom of our hearts.



Thanks to the hard-charging, motivated Marines and Sailors who continue to defend this great Nation. Today's Warriors are living up to the great legacy left for them by those who fought in Belleau Wood, Iwo Jima, Chosin Reservoir, and Khe Sanh. When the Commandant and I visit with our veterans, the resounding message they relay to us is that today's Marines are carrying on the great Warrior spirit and they are very proud of you - and that speaks volumes when coming from our predecessors.

I'd also like to say thank you to our families. Whether it's proud parents loaning us their sons and daughters, or a spouse taking care of the home front, supporting their loved one, you are all vital to what we do. Marines and Sailors could not accomplish the mission without the strong family support at home. Our families sacrifice so much and they deserve all the respect in the world.

And I'd be remiss if I didn't thank the civilians for their support. You ensure our Marines and Sailors are equipped with everything they need to be successful, and you provide them the support needed to accomplish the mission. While I will miss putting the uniform on every day and serving with motivating Marines and Sailors, it is time for me to move on. The Corps is overflowing with great leaders who are ready to step up and take charge and fill the billets of those of us retiring. I guarantee they will take the Corps to the next level.

As I always say, the Eagle, Globe & Anchor is branded on every Marine's heart. While I may not wear the uniform, I will always be a Marine, and will continue to be an advocate for our Corps. I wish you all the best in the future, and know you will continue to live up to the great legacy of our Corps.

Liz and I hope that we have lived up to your standards.

Semper Fidelis,

CARLTON W. KENT
16th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps